

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:AR DAY:BH

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

NEA:ALATHERTON,JR.

S/S:JHOGANSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 112808

NODIS

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, US

SUBJECT: FURTHER MESSAGE ON LEBANON

REF: DAMASCUS 2868

1. PASS TO DAOUDI MAY 9 THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL POINTS
ON THE LEBANESE SITUATION.

2. SECRETARY KISSINGER WANTS PRESIDENT ASAD TO KNOW THAT
HE IS VERY GRATIFIED THAT THE ELECTION OF A NEW LEBANESE
PRESIDENT HAS TAKEN PLACE. WE ARE WELL ACQUAINTED WITH
ELIAS SARKIS AND WE THINK THE OUTCOME OF THE ELECTION WAS
A GOOD ONE.

3. WE HAVE BEEN VERY DISTRESSED BY THE DISTORTED ACCOUNTS
OF OUR ACTIVITIES IN THE SYRIAN PRESS, AFTER WE HAD KEPT THE
SYRIANS METICULOUSLY INFORMED. CONTRARY TO THESE ACCOUNTS,
WE BELIEVE AMBASSADOR BROWN'S EFFORTS MADE AN IMPORTANT
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CONTRIBUTION TO THE HOLDING OF THE ELECTION ON MAY 8. HE,

OF COURSE, TOOK NO POSITION ON THE INDIVIDUAL CANDIDATES, BUT, AS WE HAVE ALREADY REPORTED TO THE SYRIANS, IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PRINCIPAL LEBANESE FACTIONS DURING THE PAST WEEK HE TOOK A

STRONG LINE WITH THEM THAT THE FIGHTING MUST END AND THE ELECTION MUST BE HELD WITHOUT DELAY.

4. FROM REPORTS WE HAVE RECEIVED TO DATE ABOUT THE ELECTION, IT APPEARS THAT THE JUMBLATT FORCES DID NOT SERIOUSLY ATTEMPT TO PREVENT IT FROM TAKING PLACE BUT ON THE OTHER HAND DID NOT PARTICIPATE THEMSELVES IN THE PARLIAMENT SESSION. WE THUS RECOGNIZE SARKIS MAY FACE AN IMMEDIATE PROBLEM IN ACHIEVING THE SUPPORT OF ALL THE KEY LEBANESE FACTIONS FOR HIS LEADERSHIP. WE SHALL DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO ENCOURAGE ALL LEBANESE TO BACK THE PRESIDENT-ELECT IN HIS COMING EFFORTS TO LEAD THE COUNTRY TOWARD RECONCILIATION AND RECONSTRUCTION.

5. SECRETARY KISSINGER HOPES THAT, WITH THE SUCCESSFUL ELECTION OF SARKIS, THERE WILL BE RAPID PROGRESS TOWARD A BASIC SOLUTION OF LEBANON'S POLITICAL PROBLEMS. WHILE WE RECOGNIZE THIS IS PRIMARILY A TASK FOR THE LEBANESE AND THEIR FRIENDS IN THE ARAB WORLD, WE CONTINUE TO BE PREPARED TO HELP AS WE CAN.

6. THE SECRETARY WANTS PRESIDENT ASAD TO KNOW THAT AMBASSADOR MELOY WILL BE TAKING UP HIS POST IN BEIRUT DURING THE COMING WEEK, AND THAT AMBASSADOR BROWN WILL BE ENDING HIS MISSION AND RETURNING TO WASHINGTON.

KISSINGER

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NNN

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To: DAMASCUS BEIRUT
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